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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-07
EUR-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NASA-01
NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01
OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 ISO-00 /134 W
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R 041629Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0010
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 6632

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, CCD, UR
SUBJ: CCD: WESTERN GROUP MEETING, AUGUST 3, 1977

REF: GENEVA 6559

1. SUMMARY: DURING AUGUST 3 MEETING OF CCD WESTERN GROUP, US REP BRIEFED ALLIES ON FIRST SESSION OF US-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS (RW). GROUP ALSO DISCUSSED SWEDISH DEMARCHES IN CAPITALS ON MOVING UP UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE DISARMAMENT DEBATE, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE A FALL CCD SESSION THEREAFTER. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING AUGUST 3 MEETING OF CCD WESTERN GROUP (CANADA,
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FRG, ITALY, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, UK, US), US REP (FISHER) GAVE BRIEFING ON FIRST SESSION OF US-SOVIET RW CONSULTATIONS, HELD AFTERNOON AUGUST 2. US PRESENTATION WAS ALONG THE LINES DESCRIBED TO WESTERN GROUP AUGUST 2 (REFTEL); US REP STATED THAT SOVIETS BEGAN WITH PRESENTATIONS ON THEIR LONGSTANDING CATCH-ALL PROPOSAL TO BAN ALL NEW MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW), BUT LATER

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SEEMED TO GIVE SOME HOPE OF WORKING OUT SEPARATE RW AGREEMENT.

3. US REP INDICATED THAT SOVIETS CAME VERY CLOSE TO ENDORSING THE AUGUST 12, 1948 DEFINITION OF MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS FORMULATED BY THE UN COMMISSION FOR CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS, BUT GAVE THE FOLLOWING TEXT TO ELABORATE ON THE PORTION OF THE DEFINITION WHICH DEALS WITH NEW TYPES OF MDW: QUOTE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS AGREEMENT NEW TYPES AND NEW SYSTEMS OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION SHALL INCLUDE WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEVELOPED IN THE FUTURE EITHER ON THE BAIS OF THE PRESENTLY KNOWN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES THAT UP TO DATE WERE NOT APPLIED, SINGLY OR JOINTLY, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OR ON THE BASIS OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES THAT MAY BE DISCOVERED IN THE FUTURE AND WHICH WILL HAVE CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR DESTRUCTIVE AND/OR INJURING EFFECT SIMILAR TO OR SURPASSING THOSE OF THE KNOWN TYPES OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. UNQUOTE. INCORPORATING THE ABOVE INTO THEIR 1974 PROPOSAL FOR AN MDW TREATY, THE US REP STATED, THE SOVIETS PRESENTED A REVISED DRAFT OF THAT TREATY. AS AN ANNEX, DESCRIBED IN THE TREATY TEXT AS "APPROXIMATE," AND CONTAINING WORDING INDICATING IT MAY BE SUPPLEMENTED IN CASE OF NECESSITY, THE SOVIETS GAVE THE FOLLOWING FOUR EXAMPLES OF NEW MDW: (A) RADIOLOGICAL MEANS OF NON-EXPLOSIVE TYPE BASED ON THE USE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS; (B) TECHNICAL MEANS OF RADIATION STRIKE EFFECT BASED ON THE USE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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CHARGED AND NEUTRAL PARTICLES TO AFFECT BIOLOGICAL TARGETS; (C) INFRASONIC MEANS BASED ON THE USE OF ACOUSTIC WAVES TO AFFECT BIOLOGICAL TARGETS; (D) MEANS BASED ON THE USE OF ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES TO AFFECT BIOLOGICAL TARGETS.

4. US REP SAID THAT EXAMPLE (A) SEEMS TO BE THE SAME AS WHAT THE US MEANS BY RW, AND THAT US DEL INTENDED TO REJECT EXAMPLES (B) THROUGH (D) ON THE GOUNDS THAT THEY DO NOT CONSTITUTE MDW. IT WAS NOTABLE, THE US REP SAID, THAT THE SOVIETS HAD COMPLETELY OMITTED TWO EARLIER EXAMPLES: FUEL-AIR EXPLOSIVES AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS BASED ON TRANS-PLUTONIUM ELEMENTS. ON RW, THE US REP STATED, THERE REMAINED ONLY ONE SLIGHT DIFFERNCE OF INTERPRETATION: THE US, GAIVEN THE INCLUSION OF THE WORDS "RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL WEAPONS" IN THE 1948 UN DEFINITION, CONSIDERS RW TO FALL IN THE CATEGORY OF KNOWN AND EXISTING MDW; THE SOVIETS, ON THE OTHER HAND, CONSIER RW A TYPE OF NEW MDW. US REP INDICATED THIS SMALL DIFFERENCE SHOULD NOT IN ANY CASE INTERFERE WITH A SEPARATE RW AGREEMENT.

5. US REP INDICATED HE HAD QUERIED SOVIET REP (LIKHATCHEV) ABOUT UK PROPOSAL FOR A UNGA RESOLUTION CONDEMING NEW

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MDW IN GENERAL AND CALLING ON CCD TO NEGOTIATE A SPECIFIC
AGREEMENT WHEN A NEW TYPE OF MDW, BASED ON NEW SCIENTIFIC
PRINCIPLES, HAD SHOWN ITSLEF TO BE POSSIBLE. SOVIET REP
HAD NOT REPLIED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 6632

6. REPS OF CANADA (SIMARD) AND ITALY (DI BERNARDO) STATED
THAT THEY PLAN TO MAKE PLENARY STATEMENTS IN CCD SUPPORTING
THE UK PROPOSAL ON MDW; CANADIAN REP SAID HIS COUNTRY'S
STATEMENT IS PLANNED FOR AUGUST 9.

7. REPS OF ITALY (DI BERNARDO), JAPAN (OGISO), AND CANADA
(SIMARD) STATED THAT SWEDISH EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAD MADE
DEMARCHES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS, ASKING SUPPORT FOR
SWEDISH PROPOSAL TO MOVE UP UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE DISARMAMENT
DEBATE TO OCTOBER 10, WITH EXPECTATION THAT IT WOULD
END ON OR ABOUT NOVEMBER 10, AND TAT CCD COULD
BEGIN A FALL SESSION SEVERAL DAYS THEREAFTER. REPS OF FRG
(SCHLAICH), NETHERLANDS (VAN DER KLAAUW), AND UK (ASHE)
SAID THAT THEY HAD NOT HEARD OF A SWEDISH APPROACH IN
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THEIR CAPITALS, BUT FRG AND NETHERLANDS REP INDICATED THAT GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM HAD BEEN SOUNDED BY THE SWEDES IN BRUSSELS.

8. CONSENSUS OF REPS WAS THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT OPPOSE MOVING UP DATE FOR BEGINNING DISARMAMENT DEBATE IN UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE, BUT SHOULD AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TRY TO REDUCE THE LINKAGE TO A FALL MEETING OF THE CCD -- WHICH WOULD BE APPROPRIATE ONLY IF A BASIS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT THAT TIME FOR STARTING MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB) OR ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW). US REP INDICATED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH THESE VIEWS, STATING THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON ON THIS SUBJECT.

9. WESTERN GROUP SCHEDULED ITS NEXT MEETING FOR 9:30 A.M. MONDAY, AUGUST 8, IN ORDER TO DISCUSS THE UPCOMING CCD INFORMAL MEETINGS ON MDW.VANDEN HEUVEL

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